

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2002

PRESENT: Chairman Walker, V.C. Gunnells, Councilmen Forrester, Brown, Attorney Pruitt, Interim Director Klugh

ABSENT: Councilman Thomas

Chairman Walker called the Public Hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to consider a request from the Planning Commission to rezone approx. 1 acre located on the north side of Hwy. 72 approximately 200 feet east of Hwy. 72 and Horton Drive from General Residential to General Commercial to allow the tract to comply with the Land Use Plan. There were no comments.

Chairman Walker called the regular meeting to order with prayer given by Attorney Pruitt.

4. First item on the agenda was approval of minutes of Regular Meeting of March 11, 2002. V. C. Gunnells made a motion to approve minutes that was seconded by Councilman Brown. Chairman Walker abstained since he was not at this meeting. Motion passed to approve minutes. Next item was approval of minutes of Special Meeting on March 18, 2002. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve these minutes that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. Councilman Brown stated that where the motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by V. C. Gunnells to offer the position of Public Works Director to Buddy Agan that there should be another sentence wherein Councilman Agan gave a verbal resignation and would follow up with a written resignation the following day. Motion passed unanimously with the additional sentence.

**5. Committee Reports:** Chairman Walker said with the resignation of Buddy Agan from Council, he would announce a couple of interim changes to the makeup of some of the committees and will take another look at the composition of the committees when they, again, have a full council.

Finance Committee consisted of Chairman Walker, Chair and Councilman Gunnells and Agan. He asked Councilman Brown to serve on the committee in the interim. The Intergovernmental Relations Committee is chaired by Councilman Forrester and includes Councilmen Calhoun and Agan. He requested that Councilman Thomas serve as interim member of that committee. The Public Safety Committee consisted of Councilman Agan as Chair and consisted of Agan, Councilman Calhoun and Councilman Forrester. He asked Councilman Brown to Chair this committee as the interim Chairman.

Personnel & Administration; Councilman Brown, Chair said he would be meeting with department heads on Thursday to discuss the personnel policy and hopefully have

something to report back and he would set up a meeting of the committee to discuss some of the things that were discussed.

Finance; Chairman Walker, Chair announced that there would be a couple of meetings this week. There will be a budget workshop Tuesday for the full council at 7PM in the Courthouse. On Wednesday at 4:45, the Finance Committee will meet to hear a final report from the external auditor.

Public Works; Vice Chairman Gunnells, Chair had nothing to report at this time.

Intergovernmental Relations, Councilman Forrester, Chair had nothing to report at this time.

Planning & Industrial Development; Councilman Thomas, Chair was absent

Education, Recreation, Health & Welfare; Councilman Calhoun, Chair had nothing to report.

Public Safety; Councilman Brown, Interim Chair had nothing to report.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Office Space; Councilman Gunnells, Chair said they received one more electrical bid for rewiring the Old Health Dept. Bldg. and are looking for the other estimate.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Computerization of County Government. No Report at this time.

#### **6. Old Business:**

(a) 3rd Reading on a request from the Planning Commission to rezone approx. 1 acre located on the north side of Hwy. 72 approx. 200 ft. east of Hwy. 72 and Horton Dive from General Residential to General Commercial to allow tract to comply with Land Use Plan. V. C. Gunnells made a motion to have 3rd Reading that was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

(a) 2nd Reading of ordinance on guidelines for Boards and Commissions. Councilman Forrester made a motion to have 2nd Reading that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. Councilman Forrester said they still had some changes and will have it up to date by the 3rd Reading. Motion passed unanimously.

(a) Recommendation on the use of Title III, Forestry Funds. Interim Director Klugh addressed Council by saying at the February 25th meeting, Council asked that a committee be set up to make a recommendation to council for the use of the \$21,288 in Title III US Forestry Funds. As a follow up to that, they had a couple of committee meetings and the organizations and participants at these meetings included the Abbeville County Soil and Water Conservation District, Clemson Ext. Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, SC Department of Natural Resources, Ninety-Six RC&D Council,

The SC Forestry Commission, Abbeville County Fire Commission, and the Abbeville County Sheriff Department. The recommendations of that committee are listed on the enclosures. The total amount that is being proposed is \$21,288. \$17,420 would be used primarily in educational and other related things in the area of natural resource conservation and education. \$3,860 would be utilized by the Abbeville County Fire Commission for training and development of a classroom as well as some equipment for the classroom. The proposed plan must be advertised and 45 days for public comment must be allowed before the final plan can be adopted. Once it is adopted, it would become effective on July 1st. After a brief discussion, Councilman Brown made a motion to adopt this recommendation on the use of the Title III Forestry Funds as a proposed plan. Councilman Forrester seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

(a) Approval of contracts from SDP. Chairman Walker said that he looked at the contracts and most are routine except for a couple of additions. Director Klugh referred to the contract dealing with boat values. This would cost \$900. The contract dealing with vehicle and personal property notices is \$28,000 which is ongoing. The processing charges such as hardware maintenance, software maintenance totals about \$39,141.00 that is ongoing. There is a Delinquent Tax Sale Advertising Program which is a new system that cost about \$5000 and maintenance on it is about \$850 a year. The processing of delinquent tax notices which is an ongoing program and is about \$6,510. Most of the money is budgeted in the various departments as part of their regular budget. After a brief discussion, Councilman Forrester made a motion to approve the contracts from SDP that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

(a) Acceptance of resignation of Buddy Agan. Councilman Brown made a motion to accept the resignation of Buddy Agan. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gunnells and passed unanimously.

## **7. New Business:**

(a) Consideration of 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of All Right, Title And Interest in, and all Rights and Obligations Under, an Inducement Agreement between Abbeville County, As Lessor, And Pirelli Communications Cable and Systems USA, LLC (F/K/A Pirelli Cables and Systems LLC) as Lessee, Authorizing Among Other Matters, The Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes, to Pirelli Power Cables and Systems USA, LLC, A Newly-Formed Affiliated Entity of the Lessee. Councilman Calhoun made a motion to have 1st Reading that was seconded by V. C. Gunnells and passed unanimously.

(a) Approval of bills for payment. Councilman Forrester made a motion to approve bills for payment that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. Director Klugh said that this included some payments for our Auditors, Cline Brandt & Kochenower and there was some discussion at the last finance committee meeting about this. Chairman Walker said there was one bill for \$5863.25 and another for \$19,811.25. He would like to have a little more input on this before approving it as well as a breakdown. He would, therefore, like the motion to be amended to exclude payment of the invoices from Cline Brandt &

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Kochenower. Councilman Forrester amended his motion to exclude payment to Kochenower that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

(a) Approval of Resolution concerning Harassing or Disruptive Activity in the Workplace. Chairman Walker stated that his Resolution will establish a formal policy for county administration and describes what is considered harassment, who this should be reported to and disciplinary action that may result. It also requires that a copy of the resolution be provided to each employee and the employee acknowledge, in writing, it has been received. Director Klugh proposed a training program for all employees. V. C. Gunnells made a motion to approve the Resolution that was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously. Council will approve the funding for training at the next County Council Meeting.

(a) Consideration of Abbeville County Library needs. Chairman Walker said there was a letter enclosed from interim director Klugh of things that needed to be done. The Library Board needs \$500 to \$700 to advertise for the new Director. Since they have no discretionary funds for this, they are requesting money from Council. They also want to partition off an area in the Abbeville Library for an office for the Director which Mike Davis estimates the cost to be about \$1,500. The question from Chairman Walker was how this would be funded to which Mr. Klugh said that he had no recommendation at this time and that he would need to familiarize himself some with how the balances stand. He went on to say that we had a little time to think about the office but the need to be advertising for the director is pretty critical if they hope to have someone in place by July 1st. Mr. Klugh felt that the shorter version of the advertising for a Director is very similar to the kind of advertising the county has done for other positions. After further discussion, Councilman Calhoun made a motion to provide \$500 to advertise for a librarian to come from the contingency fund providing the fund is not depleted. Councilman Brown seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

(i) Buddy Agan to update Council on Public Works Dept. Mr. Agan addressed Council by saying that they should have a copy of the road ordinance that deals with width. He went on to say that when Council changed this from 66ft. to 50ft. about 4 years ago, it felt that this was all that was. Now that we are hoping to expand water, will the 50 ft. restrict us when it comes to the waterlines down county roads. There was also another issue on CTC concerning two roads McBride Extension and Shop Hill Road that are located in the county just outside the city. When it was presented to CTC some time ago, it was dropped because there were some houses so close to the road that we could not get a 50ft. right of way. After further discussion, council received it as information until further study could be conducted by the Public Works Committee including Mr. Agan. Also discussed were other miscellaneous updates concerning Public Works

**(8) Executive Session:**

- (i) Discuss posts of Planning Director and County Director
- (i) Buddy Agan to discuss personnel issue at Public Works Dept.
- (i) Miscellaneous personnel matter

Councilman Forrester made a motion to go into executive session that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously. Chairman Walker called the meeting back to order following the adjournment of the executive session. There was one item that needed to be acted upon which was the Planning Director. Chairman Walker said there were nine applicants for the job. V.C. Gunnells made a motion to offer the position of Planning Director to Carol Coleman at the advertised salary of \$36,000 per annum. The motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously. Councilman Forrester made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

